



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Survivors Benefits and the PACT Act

Veterans Benefits Administration
Pension & Fiduciary Service

November 1, 2022

Survivor Benefit Updates Due to PACT



- Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Claims
 - Newly filed claims reviewed for new presumptive issues
 - Claims requesting reevaluation will be reviewed for possible grants
 - Attached special issue at claim establishment to ensure PACT processing
 - Outreach letters
- An SC death grant may result in additional Burial benefits



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How to Apply

- A survivor can file for benefits by submitting the appropriate prescribed form (www.va.gov/find-forms):
 - 21P-534EZ, *Application for DIC, Survivors Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits* for DIC and/or accrued
 - 21P-535, *Application for DIC by Parent(s)* for Parent's DIC
 - 21P-601, *Application for Accrued Amounts Due a Deceased Beneficiary* for accrued only
 - 21P-530EZ, *Application for Burial Benefits* for burial benefits
- A survivor can request reevaluation of a previously denied DIC claim
 - Via updated VA Forms 21P-534EZ or 21P-535 (checkboxes)



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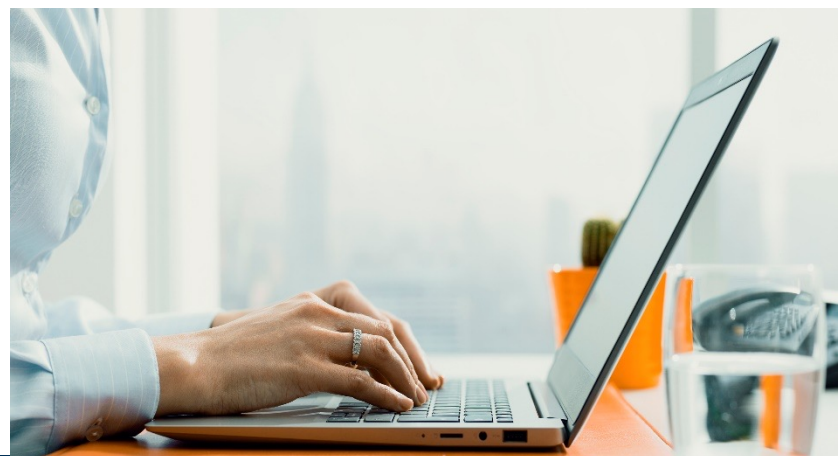
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Next Steps

- Policy Letter and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in development
- Begin processing PACT claims in January 2023
 - Approximately 146,000 potential DIC claims based on previously denied deceased Veteran's claims
 - Approximately 236,000 potential DIC claims based on previously denied survivor's claims



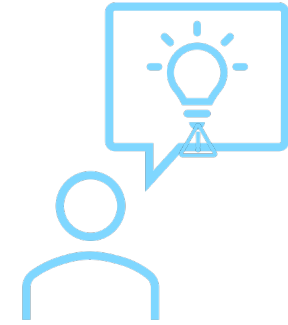
Questions



Feedback



Questions



Concerns



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Appendix A

Added Presumptive Exposure and Conditions from PACT Act



Exposures During Gulf War



Presumptive conditions can be established if the Veteran served during the following time periods and in any of the following locations, including the airspace above:

**On or after August 2, 1990,
in any of these locations:**

- Bahrain
- Iraq
- Kuwait
- Oman
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Somalia
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE)

**On or after September 11, 2001,
in any of these locations:**

- Afghanistan
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Syria
- Uzbekistan
- Yemen



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Exposures During Gulf War



New presumptive conditions related to exposure to burn pits and other toxic exposures during Gulf War:

Cancers:

- Head cancer of any type
- Neck cancer of any type
- Respiratory cancer of any type
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- Reproductive cancer of any type
- Lymphomatic cancer of any type
- Lymphoma cancer of any type
- Kidney cancer
- Brain cancer
- Melanoma
- Pancreatic cancer

Lung Conditions:

- Asthma diagnosed after service
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Constrictive or obliterative bronchitis
- Emphysema
- Granulomatous disease
- Interstitial lung disease
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Sarcoidosis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Chronic Rhinitis
- Glioblastoma



Exposure to Herbicides



New Agent Orange (AO) conditions were added and expanded presumptive locations:

- Two new Agent Orange presumptive conditions added:
 - High blood pressure (also called hypertension)
 - Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)
- Five new Agent Orange presumptive locations added:
 - Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976
 - Laos from December 1, 1965, through September 30, 1969
 - Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30, 1969
 - Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa from January 9, 1962, through July 31, 1980
 - Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, through September 30, 1977



Exposure to Radiation

The PACT Act added the following exposure groups to be presumptively considered as radiation-exposed Veterans:

Expanded Locations/Groups:

- Enewetak Atoll (Marshall Islands): Jan. 1, 1977 – Dec. 31, 1980
- Palomares, Spain: Jan. 17, 1966 – March 31, 1967
- Thule Air Force Base, Greenland: Jan. 21, 1968 – Sept. 25, 1968

